

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00 CIAE-00  
DODE-00 PM-05 H-01 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-01  
PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 HA-05 IO-13 /066 W  
-----030504 291327Z /43

O R 291213Z DEC 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 0012  
USIA WASHDC IMMEDIATE  
INFO AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMCONSUL IZMIR  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
USNMR SHAPE  
USCINCEUR  
USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES  
USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

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E.O. 11652: N/A  
TAGS: PFOR, PINR, TU, US, UK  
SUBJ: REPORTED ARREST OF TURKISH INTELLIGENCE OFFICIAL

REF: ANKARA 9333(DTG 271200Z DEC 77)

1. TURKISH PRESS COVERAGE OF REPORTED ARREST OF TURKISH  
NATIONAL INTELLIGENCE OFFICE (MIT) DEPUTY CHIEF HAS  
VIRTUALLY DIAPPEARED SINCE DECEMBER 27. PRESS MAY LACK  
NEW INFORMATION; ALSO, GOVERNMENT CRISIS AND  
POLITICAL VIOLENCE ARE GENERATING MAJOR NEWS STORIES.

2. ONLY TWO EDITORIALS HAVE APPEARED, BOTH INDICATING  
A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF CONFUSION ABOUT WHAT ARREST MAY MEAN  
AND CONCERN THAT EVENT MAY SOMEHOW BE USED TO THE ADVANTAGE  
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OF PRIMIN DEMIREL AND HIS COALITION PARTNERS.

3. FIRST EDITORIAL, BY REGULAR CONTRIBUTOR TEOMAN EREL,  
APPEARED IN SENSATIONALIST GUNAYDIN DECEMBER 27. EREL WRITES  
THAT THE MANNER IN WHICH THE STORY OF THE ARREST HAS APPEARED  
GIVES THE IMPRESSION THE DEMIREL COALITION WANTS TO SHOW  
THAT THE UNITED STATES IS TRYING TO OVERTHROW IT. HE

ADDS THAT THIS SUPPOSITION IS SUPPORTED BY DARK HINTS MADE BY NATIONAL SALVATION PARTY (NSP) CHAIRMAN ERBAKAN AND NATIONALIST ACTION PARTY (NAP) CHAIRMAN TURKES AND REPORTED IN THE PRESS DECEMBER 26 THAT "FOREIGN POWERS" ARE BEHIND THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT CRISIS. EREL SAYS THAT THIS EFFORT TO APPEAR ANTI-AMERICAN AND TO SEEM AN AGGRIEVED PARTY CONFLICTS WITH REPORTS OF BARGAINING WITH THE INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND AND INCREASED NUMBERS OF AMERICAN TROOPS IN TURKEY DESPITE EMBARGO. PRETENDING TO LEAVE OFFICE BECAUSE IT OPPOSED AMERICAN PLANS AND NOT BECAUSE IT DRAGGED TURKEY INTO ITS PRESENT CRISIS IS A STORY NO ONE WILL BELIEVE, CONCLUDES EREL.

4. ILHAMI SOYSAL, WRITING IN LEFTIST AND OFTEN ANTI-US VATAN DECEMBER 29, DISCUSSED THE "FACT" THAT INTELLIGENCE COLLECTING IN FRIENDLY AND HOSTILE COUNTRIES IS PRACTICED BY ALL NATIONS. IN TURKEY IN PARTICULAR, HE ADDS, INFORMATION THAT IS PUBLIC IN MOST COUNTRIES --FOR INSTANCE, SMALL-SCALE MAPS--IS CONSIDERED A STATE SECRET IN TURKEY. THE CURRENT CASE OF THE ARRESTED MIT OFFICIAL IS STRANGE BECAUSE PRESS REPORTS INDICATE HE WAS SELLING AMERICANS INFORMATION THAT THEY ALREADY KNEW BETTER THAN ANY TURKISH CITIZEN. SOYSAL NOTES THAT UP TO NOW SPIES CAUGHT IN TURKEY AND EXPOSED TO THE PUBLIC WERE FROM THE USSR OR SOCIALIST COUNTRIES. NOW THERE IS A CASE ALLEGEDLY INVOLVING THE US AND GREAT BRITAIN WHICH IS EXPOSED PRECISELY LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AT THE TIME A SOVIET ECONOMIC DELEGATION IS IN ANKARA TO DISCUSS AN EXPANDED ASSISTANCE PACKAGE. SOYSAL QUESTIONS THE APPARENT COINCIDENCE IN THE TIMING OF THESE EVENTS AND HINTS THAT IT MAY NOT BE ACCIDENTAL--THE CURRENT GOVERNMENT IN THE MIDST OF CRISIS MAY WANT TO SHOW THAT IT CAN WORK WITH THE SOVIETS AND TO PROVE THAT IT IS NOT UNDER THE THUMB OF THE UNITED STATES. SPIERS

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## Message Attributes

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**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
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**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
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